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## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### CIVIL AIR PATROL CALIFORNIA WING SEARCHES SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS FOR MISSING GLIDER

VAN NUYS, Calif. - Aircraft of the Civil Air Patrol searched the San Gabriel Mountains early Sunday morning for a missing glider, Capt. Bob Keilholtz of the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol said.

The engineless sailplane carrying two passengers was reported missing Saturday evening when it failed to return to its point of departure.

The glider, a Burkhart Grob model G103 Twin, was expected to make a one hour local flight after being towed Saturday afternoon to an altitude of approximately 9,300 feet by a fixed-wing aircraft before being released in the area of Mt. Baden Powell, in the San Gabriel Mountains.

After a search of the Crystal Airport failed to locate the missing glider, the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center in Langley Virginia tasked the California Wing of the Civil Air Patrol to search for the missing glider.

The glider was not equipped with an Emergency Locator Transmitter, Keilholtz said.

An Emergency Locator Transmitter is a radio beacon typically carried in powered aircraft that automatically transmits a radio distress signal after a crash landing to assist search and rescue personnel locate the crash site.

"Without an active ELT distress signal to search for we had to wait until daylight to begin visual searches of the most probable places where they could have landed," he said.

"We have four Civil Air Patrol aircraft flying in the San Gabriel Mountains this morning, visually searching over 250 square miles," Keilholtz said.

In addition to the Civil Air Patrol aircrews searching from the air, radar-tracking data from the U.S. Air Force's 84<sup>th</sup> Radar Evaluation Squadron at Hill Air Force Base, Utah was examined to identify the probable flight path of the glider after it was released from the tow plane.

"We are grateful to the assistance provided by the 84<sup>th</sup> RADES," Keilholtz said. "Without an active distress beacon signal, or any other hard data on the aircrafts' last known position, having access to this radar data enabled us to cut response times by focusing the search on the most likely position where they could have landed."

In this search mission, two lives were saved because of the cooperation he said.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Aero Bureau was also searching the same area with one of their helicopters while the Civil Air Patrol aircraft were flying the higher elevation areas.

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## CIVIL AIR PATROL CALIFORNIA WING SEARCHES SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS FOR MISSING GLIDER (Continued)

The missing glider was found at approximately 7:20 a.m. Sunday morning on the south slope of the mountain range at approximately 4,200 feet elevation in a canyon wash, approximately four miles west of the Mountain High Ski Resort, Keilholtz said.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department airlifted the passengers out of the canyon and reported they both were uninjured.

"They were examined and released in the field and are now resting at home," Sheriff's Deputy Oscar Butao said.

The National Weather Service in Oxnard, California, reported overnight temperatures in the San Gabriel Mountains in the 20's to 30's.

The U.S. Air Force Rescue Coordination Center awarded two search and rescue "distress saves" to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the California Wing of the Civil Air Patrol.

"My experience managing search missions involving gliders is that you typically have very minor injuries compared to powered aircraft crashes, possibly due to the gliders increased maneuverability giving the pilot extra time to look for the safest place to make a forced landing and more control over the glider until it is on the ground."

With the exception of having to wait until first light to launch any aircraft to begin flying visual searches, the missing glider and both passengers were found alive within the first operational period Keilholtz said.

"This was the classic missing aircraft search and rescue mission," he said.

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*Civil Air Patrol, the official U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, is a nonprofit organization. It performs more than 85% of inland search and rescue missions tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center in the Continental United States. Volunteers also take a leading role in Aerospace education and serve as mentors to America's youth through Civil Air Patrol cadet programs.*

*On the web at [www.cawg.cap.gov](http://www.cawg.cap.gov) and [www.cap.gov](http://www.cap.gov).*